

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN AFRICAN DISASPORA PROGRAM

1. DEPT AT URGENT REQUEST OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, ASKS ASSISTANCE OF POSTS IN APPROACHING LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS REGARDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF HOST COUNTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL "FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLK-LIFE" SPONSORED IN WASHINGTON BY SMITHSONIAN AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICES. AFTER WASHINGTON, PERFORMERS WILL TOUR OTHER CITIES FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS AS PART OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. FESTIVAL HAS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION.

2. FESTIVAL'S "AFRICAN DISASPORA" PROGRAM IS WORKING WITH USIS CULTURAL OFFICERS TO SELECT 25 FOLK ARTISTS FROM EACH COUNTRY TO VISIT U.S. WITH TWO OFFICIALS DESIGNATED BY HOST GOVERNMENT. SMITHSONIAN HAD ORIGINALLY UNDERTAKEN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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COVER ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE TO WASHINGTON, ALL DOLLAR COSTS

WITHIN U.S. FOR TRAVEL, BOARD AND LODGING, PLUS 10 DOLLARS PER PERSON DAILY FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES. HOWEVER, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO SMITHSONIAN HAVE FALLEN SHORT THIS YEAR, AND INSTITUTION DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS TO MEET ROUNDTrip TRANSPORTATION COSTS. CU NOT ONLY UNABLE TO FUND CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY BUT ALSO HAS NO FUNDS FOR THIS UNDERTAKING.

3. NO READING HERE ON HOW LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WOULD REACT TO APPEALS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT, SO POSTS MUST USE OWN DISCRETION IN THIS MATTER. FUNDS ARE NEEDED NOT ONLY TO COVER ROUNDTrip AIRFARE TO WASHINGTON FOR 27 PARTICIPANTS BUT UP TO 4,000 DOLLARS EXCESS WEIGHT ALLOWANCE FOR COSTUMES, INSTRUMENTS, CRAFT MATERIALS. FESTIVAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULES AVAILABLE AT USIS.

4. POST REPLIES SHOULD REACH DEPT BY MAY 3 SINCE INITIAL CONTINGENT OF AFRICAN PERFORMERS DUE WASHINGTON JUNE 13.

5. IN TALKS WITH BUSINESSMEN, POSTS MAY NOTE THAT AMERICAN AIRLINES AND GENERAL FOODS CONTRIBUTED 1 MILLION DOLLARS AND LISTED AS FESTIVAL CO-SPONSORS. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING AFL-CIO, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT. SISCO

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